
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5473

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Regala, B. Sheldon, Johnson, Kohl-Welles, Winsley and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing law enforcement officers with training
2 in interaction with persons with a developmental disability or mental
3 illness; and adding a new section to chapter 43.101 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.101 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The commission must offer a training session on law enforcement
8 interaction with persons with a developmental disability or mental
9 illness. The training must be developed by the commission in
10 consultation with appropriate self advocate and family advocate groups
11 and with appropriate community, local, and state organizations and
12 agencies that have expertise in the area of working with persons with
13 a developmental disability or mental illness. In developing the
14 course, the commission must also examine existing courses certified by
15 the commission that relate to persons with a developmental disability
16 or mental illness.

17 (2) The training should employ the use of electronic instruction,
18 and shall emphasize nonclassroom availability of the offerings when

1 appropriate. The training shall replicate likely field situations to
2 the maximum extent possible. The training should include, at a
3 minimum, core instruction in all of the following:

4 (a) The cause and nature of mental illnesses and developmental
5 disabilities;

6 (b) How to identify indicators of mental illness and developmental
7 disability and how to respond appropriately in a variety of common
8 situations;

9 (c) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for
10 potentially dangerous situations involving persons with a developmental
11 disability or mental illness;

12 (d) Appropriate language usage when interacting with persons with
13 a developmental disability or mental illness;

14 (e) Alternatives to lethal force when interacting with potentially
15 dangerous persons with a developmental disability or mental illness;
16 and

17 (f) Community and state resources available to serve persons with
18 a developmental disability or mental illness and how these resources
19 can be best used by law enforcement to benefit persons with a
20 developmental disability or mental illness in their communities.

21 (3) The training shall be made available to law enforcement
22 agencies, through electronic means, for use at their convenience and
23 determined by the internal training needs and resources of each agency.

24 (4) The commission shall make all reasonable efforts to secure
25 private and nonstate public funds to implement this section.

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